

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently amended) A method for answering a wireless telephone, the method comprising:
receiving an incoming call;
responsive to a determination that automatic call answering has been selected by a user, answering the incoming call by providing the calling party with an indication that the user will take the call momentarily and placing the wireless telephone in mute mode until the user has taken the incoming call, wherein the indication that the user will take the call momentarily provides an indication to the calling party that the user will be using a speech phrase generator to conduct a conversation.
2. (Canceled)
- a) 3. (Currently amended) The method as recited in claim [[2]]1, further comprising:
providing audio of the calling party to the user; and
responsive to selection of a speech phrase by the user, sending a speech phrase to the calling party.
4. (Original) The method as recited in claim 3, wherein the speech phrase is prerecorded.
5. (Original) The method as recited in claim 3, wherein the speech phrase is generated using a voice generation unit.
6. (Original) The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising:
notifying the user of the incoming call; and
presenting the user with options as to how to dispose of the call.
7. (Original) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the options include allowing automatic call answering to answer the incoming call and at least one of allowing the user

to answer the incoming call, allowing voice mail to take the incoming call, and allowing the incoming call to go unanswered.

8. (Original) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the step of providing the calling party with an indication that the user will take the call momentarily includes sending a voice message to the calling party.

9. (Original) The method as recited in claim 8, wherein the voice message is a prerecorded message.

10. (Original) The method as recited in claim 8, wherein the voice message is generated by a voice generation unit.

al 11. (Original) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the step of providing the calling party with an indication that the user will take the call momentarily includes sending a text message to the calling party.

12. (Original) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the step of providing the calling party with an indication that the user will take the call momentarily comprises a selectable message selected from a plurality of possible messages.

13. (Original) The method as recited in claim 12, wherein the selectable message is selected based on the identity of the calling party.

14. (Original) The method as recited in claim 12, wherein the selectable message is selected based on the time.

15. (Original) The method as recited in claim 12, wherein the selectable message is selected by the user.

16. (Currently amended) A computer program product in a computer readable media for use in a wireless telephone for answering the wireless telephone, the computer program product comprising:

first instructions for receiving an incoming call;

second instructions, responsive to a determination that automatic call answering has been selected by a user, for answering the incoming call by providing the calling party with an indication that the user will take the call momentarily and placing the wireless telephone in mute mode until the user has taken the incoming call, wherein the indication that the user will take the call momentarily provides an indication to the calling party that the user will be using a speech phrase generator to conduct a conversation.

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17. (Canceled)

18. (Currently amended) The computer program product as recited in claim [[17]]16, further comprising:

third instructions for providing audio of the calling party to the user; and

fourth instructions, responsive to selection of a speech phrase by the user, for sending a speech phrase to the calling party.

19. (Original) The computer program product as recited in claim 18, wherein the speech phrase is prerecorded.

20. (Original) The computer program product as recited in claim 18, wherein the speech phrase is generated using a voice generation unit.

21. (Original) The computer program product as recited in claim 16, further comprising:

third instructions for notifying the user of the incoming call; and

fourth instructions for presenting the user with options as to how to dispose of the call.

22. (Original) The computer program product as recited in claim 16, wherein the options include allowing automatic call answering to answer the incoming call and at least one of allowing the user to answer the incoming call, allowing voice mail to take the incoming call, and allowing the incoming call to go unanswered.
23. (Original) The computer program product as recited in claim 16, wherein the instructions for providing the calling party with an indication that the user will take the call momentarily includes sending a voice message to the calling party.
24. (Original) The computer program product as recited in claim 23, wherein the voice message is a prerecorded message.
25. (Original) The computer program product as recited in claim 23, wherein the voice message is generated by a voice generation unit.
26. (Original) The computer program product as recited in claim 16, wherein the instructions for providing the calling party with an indication that the user will take the call momentarily includes sending a text message to the calling party.
27. (Original) The computer program product as recited in claim 16, wherein the instructions for providing the calling party with an indication that the user will take the call momentarily comprises a selectable message selected from a plurality of possible messages.
28. (Original) The computer program product as recited in claim 27, wherein the selectable message is selected based on the identity of the calling party.
29. (Original) The computer program product as recited in claim 27, wherein the selectable message is selected based on the time.

30. (Original) The computer program product as recited in claim 27, wherein the selectable message is selected by the user.

31. (Currently amended) A wireless telephone, the wireless telephone comprising:
a receiver which receives an incoming call;
an automatic answering unit which, responsive to a determination that automatic call answering has been selected by a user, answers the incoming call by providing the calling party with an indication that the user will take the call momentarily and placing the wireless telephone in mute mode until the user has taken the incoming call, wherein the indication that the user will take the call momentarily provides an indication to the calling party that the user will be using a speech phrase generator to conduct a conversation.

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32. (Canceled)

33. (Currently amended) The wireless telephone as recited in claim ~~[[32]]~~31, further comprising:

a speaker which provides audio of the calling party to the user; and
a speech generator which, responsive to selection of a speech phrase by the user, sends a speech phrase to the calling party.

34. (Original) The wireless telephone as recited in claim 33, wherein the speech phrase is prerecorded.

35. (Original) The wireless telephone as recited in claim 33, wherein the speech phrase is generated using a voice generation unit.

36. (Original) The wireless telephone as recited in claim 31, further comprising:
a call notification unit which notifies the user of the incoming call; and
an option presentation unit which presents the user with options as to how to dispose of the call.

37. (Original) The wireless telephone as recited in claim 31, wherein the options include allowing automatic call answering to answer the incoming call and at least one of allowing the user to answer the incoming call, allowing voice mail to take the incoming call, and allowing the incoming call to go unanswered.

38. (Original) The wireless telephone as recited in claim 31, wherein the instructions for providing the calling party with an indication that the user will take the call momentarily includes sending a voice message to the calling party.

a1 39. (Original) The wireless telephone as recited in claim 38, wherein the voice message is a prerecorded message.

40. (Original) The wireless telephone as recited in claim 38, wherein the voice message is generated by a voice generation unit.

41. (Original) The wireless telephone as recited in claim 31, wherein providing the calling party with an indication that the user will take the call momentarily includes sending a text message to the calling party.

42. (Original) The wireless telephone as recited in claim 31, wherein providing the calling party with an indication that the user will take the call momentarily comprises a selectable message selected from a plurality of possible messages.

43. (Original) The wireless telephone as recited in claim 42, wherein the selectable message is selected based on the identity of the calling party.

44. (Original) The wireless telephone as recited in claim 42, wherein the selectable message is selected based on the time.

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45. (Original) The wireless telephone as recited in claim 42, wherein the selectable message is selected by the user.
